GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
GLOBAL TRADE IN SEEDS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of India in the global trade in seeds;

(b) whether steps have been taken to enhance our share at the global level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): The share of the Indian Global Trade in seed is less than one percent.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam.

Following measures have been initiated to enhance its share at the global level:

(i) Quantitative restrictions for export of seeds have been removed and exports liberalized.

(ii) Promotional programmes to improve the quality of Indian seeds to enhance the market acceptability have been taken up.

(iii) Testing and certification facilities have been established in conformity with international requirements.

(iv) Private Seed Testing Laboratories have been accredited and permitted to issue orange certificate of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) for export of seeds.

(v) India has become a member of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) since October, 2008 to facilitate movement of seeds in international trade. 10 States seeds certification agencies have been nominated as Designated Authorities for implementation of the OECD Programme. 61 varieties of 21 crops have been listed under the OECD catalogue for varietal Certification.

(vi) The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2001 has been enacted and is expected to encourage the export of seeds.

(vii) Adequate provisions have been made in the proposed Seeds Bill 2004 to facilitate the export of seeds.